

OP INFO
DE NTE #7319 345173
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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK09//

**ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY**

TO: BREWER/COVET/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH WH52457

YOMAK 29

DECEMBER 11, 1975

VIA BLACK PATCH

State Dept. review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT INFORMATION ITEMS

25x1

SEC FILM

NSA & DIA HAS
REVIEWED

P5H2048650

Page 29

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***** THE SECRET *****

ICELAND-UK COU WAR: AN ICELANDIC PATROL BOAT FIRED ON A BRITISH SUPPORT SHIP TODAY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT IN THE DISPUTE AND PROBABLY WILL LEAD TO FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE COU WAR. ACCORDING TO BRITISH OFFICIALS, CALLAGHAN IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE A MOVE UPON THE SIZE OF THE BRITISH CATCH WHEN HE MEETS WITH AGUSTSSON. TALKS BROKE DOWN LAST MONTH WHEN ICELAND AND THE UK COULD NOT AGREE ON THIS ISSUE. REYKJAVIK WANTS TO LIMIT THE BRITISH TO 65,000 TONS, WHILE LONDON INSISTS ON 110,000 TONS. BOTH SIDES BELIEVE IT IS UP TO THE OTHER TO GET TALKS UNDERTAKING AGAIN. THE FIRING INCIDENT MAY PUSH THE RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS FARTHER INTO THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IF AGUSTSSON USES THE EPISODE AS AN EXCUSE FOR VEHEMENT REMARKS IN BRUSSELS.

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